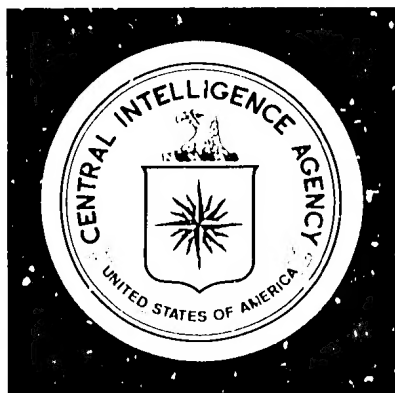


CIACRS BR 75-53 Oct 75
The New Thai Team—UPADIT and PRACHA

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BR 75-53

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The New Thai Team

*UPADIT Pachariyangkun, Ambassador-
Designate to the United States*

*PRACHA Khunakasem, Permanent
Representative to the United Nations*

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BR 75-53
October 1975

NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION
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PREFACE

The Royal Thai Government is sending two diplomats to the United States this fall to handle the work formerly done by one. Upadit Pachariyangkun has been named Ambassador to the United States, and Pracha Khunakasem has been appointed Permanent Representative to the United Nations. They will replace the extremely capable Anan Panyarachun, who has held the UN position since 1967 and the Washington post concurrently since 1972. (Anan is returning to the Foreign Ministry as Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.)

In the past year the nature of the Thai-US relationship has changed dramatically. Partly because of the changed political situation in Southeast Asia, the Thai Government no longer wishes to cooperate with this country as closely as it once did on military and foreign policy matters. The relationship between the two countries continues to change. Under these circumstances it has been difficult for a single man—even one of Anan's high caliber—to satisfy the increasing demands of both the Washington and the New York posts; dividing the responsibilities between two men should ease the situation.

Both new Ambassadors are able, experienced, respected, sophisticated and occasionally irritable career diplomats. Of the two, Pracha is the more dynamic, influential and aggressive—a “rising star” in the Foreign Ministry. American educated, he knows the United States well and has worked closely with Americans for many years. Upadit, on the other hand, is European educated, is more reserved and cautious, and will probably be more dependent on Bangkok for guidance. Unlike Pracha and Anan, he was not closely involved in Thai-US affairs during the past decade. He comes to this country with a relatively fresh and open mind. At a time when Thailand hopes to improve its economic relations with the United States, Upadit's extensive economic background should be useful. Both Upadit and Pracha are confirmed anti-Communist nationalists—intent upon asserting Thailand's independence from the United States. Both men react unfavorably to excessive pressure.

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